

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MORO STATEMENT ON REPRESSION OF SOVIET INTELLECTUALS

1. IN SPEECH BEFORE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES SEPTEMBER 28, FOREIGN MINISTER MORO TOOK UP SUBJECT OF REPRESSION OF SOVIET INTELLECTUALS IN RESPONSE TO INTERPELLATION SUBMITTED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS DURING SUMMER RECESS. FOLLOWING TACTICAL LINES OF HIS STATEMENT PREVIOUS DAY ON CHILEAN SITUATION, MORO GAVE BALANCED, CAREFULLY-WORDED PRESENTATION WHICH PARALLELED REASONING ADVANCED BY SECRETARY DURING HIS CONFIRMATION HEARINGS. SPECIFICALLY, MORO NOTED THAT JUSTIFIED CONDEMNATION OF REPRESSION OF HUMAN FREEDOM HAD TO BE WEIGHED AGAINST ADVANTAGES OF IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS AND PROMOTION OF DETENTE. LATTER PROCESS, MORO MAINTAINED, CONTAINED BEST HOPE OF EVENTUAL EVOLUTION OF SOVIET SOCIETY IN MORE LIBERAL DIRECTION.

2. SPEECH CONTAINED FEW SPECIFIC ALLUSIONS TO SOVIET UNION OR DISSIDENTS AND RELIED INSTEAD ON STRONG GENERIC SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND PERSONAL FREEDOM ALONG WITH RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.

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RIGHTS AND PERSONAL FREEDOM ALONG WITH RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.

RECALLING THAT BRANDT AND KREISKY HAD EXPRESSED SIMILAR SENTIMENTS REGARDING DISSIDENT ISSUE, MORO QUOTED SOLZHENITSYN TO THE EFFECT THAT MEN OF GOOD WILL MUST CONTINUE TO WORK FOR CLIMATE OF DETENTE IN ORDER TO REFUTE THE THESIS THAT POWER IS EVERYTHING AND JUSTICE NOTHING. MAJOR PORTION OF SPEECH, HOWEVER, DEVOTED TO ITALIAN HOPES FOR PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD VIA CONCRETE MEASURES AT CSCE. NOTING THAT PREPARATORY PHASE OF CONFERENCE HAD NOT PROCEEDED EXACTLY AS FORESEEN. MORO PROMISED, NEVERTHELESS THAT ITALIANS WOULD MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO REGISTER ADVANCES IN AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS WHILE BEING CAREFUL NOT ABANDON POLICY OF DETENTE.

3. COMMENTS OF CHAMBER DEPUTIES FOLLOWING SPEECH GENERALLY ECHOED LINE TAKEN BY FOREIGN MINISTER WITH NUANCES RIGHT OR LEFT ACCORDING TO PARTY ORIENTATION. LIBERALS AND NEW-FASCISTS ALSO TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO BOARD COMMUNISTS WITH QUERIES AS TO HOW IT COULD BE POSSIBLE TO INSTALL COMMUNISM IN ITALY WITHOUT INEVITABLE LOSS OF PERSONAL FREEDOM. PCI DEPUTY ADOPTED STANDARD LOCAL LINE IN OFFERING GENTLE CRITICISM OF REPRESSION OF DISSIDENTS WHILE DISASSOCIATING HIMSELF FROM SUBSTANCE OF THEIR ACTIONS AND COMPLAINTS AND INSISTING THAT SUCH EPISODES SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO SABOTAGE ONGOING DETENTE. REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVE ANNOUNCED THAT HIS GROUP HAD PREPARED DOSSIER ON SOVIET DISSIDENT PROBLEM IN WHICH IT IS ALLEGED THAT THERE ARE ONE MILLION TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND INMATES IN SOVIET PRISONS AND AN AVERAGE OF 67 POLITICAL TRIALS PER YEAR. BEAUDRY

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